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A

LETTER

TO

A Perſon of Diſtinction in Town,

FROM

A GENTLEMAN in the Country.

CONTAINING,

Some REMARKS on a late PAMPHLET, intitled, *A Free and Candid Inquiry*, &c.

——Is there not ſome choſen Curſe,
Some hidden Thunder in the Stores of Heav'n,
Red with uncommon Wrath to blaſt the Man
Who owes his Greatneſs to a Country's Ruin!

ADDISON's CATO.

DUBLIN:
Printed in the Year MDCCLIII.

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Anderson's Exrs.

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A LETTER TO A Perſon of Diſtinction in Town, FROM A GENTLEMAN in the Country.

My LORD,

YOU deſire my Opinion of the Pamphlet you ſent me, and I think it the firſt unreaſonable Injunction I ever met with from you: It is a Production of ſo odd a Nature, that it is very hard to reduce it to a Subject for Criticiſm: To ſay the Truth, its firſt Appearance is ſo ambiguous, that it has puzzled many People to determine whether it is intended to befriend or hurt the Cauſe it would ſeem to eſpouſe. For my Part, I think that, on a minute Peruſal, there is no Difficulty in ſeeing that the Author was ſeriouſly doing his beſt: There is a hearty Zeal and Intereſtedneſs appearing, in the ſtrongeſt and moſt unaffected Colours, through many Paſſages of it, that muſt, I think, leave little Doubt of the Gentleman's Sincerity, with every Reader of tolerable Diſcernment.

The Difficulty I complain of does not therefore conſiſt in any Uncertainty about the Intention of this Work, but in the Irregularity of the Manner, and Abſurdity of the Matter, of the Arguments; the confident Aſſertions of the moſt notorious Falſhoods, and the poiſonous Virulence of the Reflections: For all theſe, and numberleſs other *Peccata* which occur in every Line, put the Patience doubly to a Trial; firſt, in following ſuch an Author through all his tedious and ridiculous Perplexities; and next, in reſtraining from that Invective, which, however merited, does no Honour to the Obſerver.

I ſhall, however, at your Deſire, let you know what occurred to me on the Peruſal of this extraordinary Piece. I will take no Pains to methodize or adorn my Thoughts; they are your Due, you ſhall have them in their natural Dreſs, and, I hope, will approve them; but let your Good-nature, I beg you, act only on your private Judgment, and do not hurry them to the Preſs merely upon your own Liking; your Eye ſees falſe through the *Medium* of Friendſhip, therefore take ſome auxiliary Opinion, not ſubject to the ſame Deception, to your Aid; if your Opinions concur, you have my Leave to print what I ſend you; if the Sentiments are nugatory or injudicious, they will, at leaſt, do no Harm; they are the Produce of a good Intention, not gloſſed or varniſhed with a ſplendid Diction.

I know not yet how long my Letter will be; but

but if it can conveniently be done, I think a News-paper will be the beſt choſen Vehicle for Obſervations on a Writer of this Claſs: There is a Propriety, methinks, in diſplaying even weak and intentional Villainy, and exhibiting an Incendiary in the ſame Manner, which Cuſtom has appointed for the advertiſing of leſſer Rogues, and hanging them out to the public Caution. — But this to your own Diſcretion.

I will not, however, uſe you ſo ill as to deceive you, and therefore will not pretend that your Commands have been my ſole Motive for this Letter: they, indeed, have added much to my Alacrity; but I muſt alſo confeſs, what would certainly be collected from my following Sentiments, that I take great Pleaſure in an Occaſion of declaring my Feelings on a Subject of this Nature, and glorying in the Profeſſion, that I am inviolably attached in Favour of that Intereſt which is the true, old Baſis of this Kingdom's Welfare, and which this Writer has laid himſelf to ridicule and abuſe; my youthful Blood beat high in its Behalf, and the Experience of many Years has applauded and confirmed my Choice. Do not, however, think yourſelf excuſed from Severity, when you exact even theſe pleaſing Declarations from me in a Manner ſo very diſagreeable as inveſtigating this Author through all the Turns and Doubles of his ſcandalous Performance.

It is, no Doubt, thought intolerably inſolent, in your polite World, that ſuch *uſeleſs* and *inglorious* Members of the Community, as we Country Gentlemen are, ſhould preſume to ſpeak of political

political Movements with any Degree of Freedom, but it will be ſo, even in Deſpite of ourſelves; few landed Men find themſelves free from this impertinent Piece of Vanity; I don't know how it is, but a Property in the Soil of the Country will ſtill bring with it not only a Solicitude and Concern about every public Meaſure, but alſo an idle, tho' irremovable, Prejudice that we have both a Right and a Power of cenſuring them; nay, a better Right than many who, though concern'd in the Conduct of Affairs, are no Sharers in the Events that may happen.

I wiſh you had told me who is thought the Author among you, for, at this Diſtance, it is hard to gueſs; every Reader has, indeed, the higheſt Reaſon to ſuppoſe in general, if not from the Motto, at leaſt from the Matter and Form, of his Treatiſe, that this excellent Diſſertation on Politics and Properties is the Work of no other than ſome little, ſour, attending Chaplain; all that Rancor and Bitterneſs, that entire Deficiency of Humanity and Politeneſs, that Steadineſs in Falſhood, that alternate Adulation and Inſolence, both exerted with precipitate Stupidity, and that *feeling* Manner of exhibiting his grand Patron's *domeſtic Virtues* and *Generoſity*, are palpably the Effluvia of ſuch a Compoſition, the Reſult of, *at leaſt*, *two* debauched *Parts*, a pampered Stomach and a heated Brain. But I wiſh we knew the Name; for my own Part, had the Book a little more of the Buffoon in it, I would venture to anſwer for the Author, and fill up the Blank in the Title Page, with the recommendatory Epithets of *Apoſtate*, *Paraſite*, and SPY.

But

But to proceed to my Task.—Our Author sets out with a very effectual Recommendation of his Performance; he tells us "That every Person "who walks the Streets knows as much of these "Matters as himself;" "that, indeed, he has "no Opportunities of coming to a Knowledge of "them, and that tho' there are Divisions among "us, yet the Causes of them are known to but "few, if any." Nay, he informs us (in *Page* 9.) that "neither the Leaders, nor their Associates, "know what it is they contend about." From all this one would expect but a very indifferent *Eclaircissement*; but the Author, after a Flourish or two more, steps with the greatest Ease into a profound *Inquiry*, not only into the Nature and Particulars of our present Feuds, but also into those latent Principles in the human Breast, from whence these Divisions take their Rise.

He next proceeds to play upon us that stale Device of Innovators, and their Adherents, to lay our Caution asleep by inculcating a Notion of Security, and assuring us, that no Harm is intended. This Stroke of Policy he often repeats, and tells us, as a farther Motive to Peace and Harmony, that *England*, our *common Parent*, is now without Parties and Distinctions, and that in all *Deference* and *Duty* to her we should follow her Example. Whether this Fact, or the Conclusion drawn from it, be just or not, we are obliged to our Adviser; and beg Leave to assure him, that we are as well inclined to enjoy the inestimable Blessings of Tranquillity as *England*, or any other Nation under the Sun, and (in *Swift*'s Phrase) to possess our Brogues and Potatoes in Peace; who are they then that hinder us? This

This leads me to an Obſervation which may help my Author out of the political Difficulty into which he has plunged, in *P.* 11, & 12, and enable him to reconcile thoſe ſeemingly contradictory *Phænomena*, which the great Curioſity of his Reſearches has in that Place ſtarted to his Imagination. He there is pleaſed to repreſent us *Inſulars* as diſpoſed to Faction, and proud to change to a prodigious Degree, allows this was not the Character of our Forefathers, and then puzzles himſelf for the Cauſes of the Change. By *Inſulars*, I preſume, he means to diſtinguiſh US of this particular Iſland, or he ſpeaks quite foreign to the Purpoſe. Now that WE not only have been, but are, *at this Day*, diſtinguiſhable for a natural Propenſity to ſocial Benevolence in private Life, and to the moſt pacific Meaſures in public Concerns, let Hiſtory, let our recent Conduct in the moſt dangerous Criſes, and our univerſal Character among Foreigners, evince. This being undeniable, a Clue will be eaſily found to lead to the Source of our preſent Diviſions, which, I fancy, will be found to take their Riſe, not from our *natural* Diſpoſitions, but from the Aſſiduity of ſome choice Spirits, who have imported, among other exotic Faſhions, the laudable and noble Principles of ſpiritual and military Dominion. *French* Heraldry will tell you, theſe two are the *Supporters* of the royal Arms of that Kingdom. Now, becauſe we have a Whim in Favour of our *old Way*, this Gentleman ſays we degenerate from our honeſt Anceſtors. True it is, indeed, that for many Years neither *they* or *we* have had ſuch a Tryal of *our national Tenacity* as at preſent; thro' that happy

happy Period the Felicity of a poor, but quiet, Situation has crowned this Isle. Struggling thro' the Disadvantages of an unreclaimed Soil, and a limited Commerce, we were not worthy the *Attention* of *polite Strangers*; hence it was, that, as our Author observes, we could *then* look forward *with Pleasure*, and provide for the Happiness of Posterity — that noblest of human Cares!

Permit me here, my Lord, to digress for a Minute into a favourite Sentiment; I have always thought that a tender Regard to the succeeding Generation is one of the most infallible Directors both in private and public Life; in the first, it is the best Preservative of our Souls, our Bodies, and our Fortunes; and as to Politics, it must, I think, effectually prevent that greatest of human Evils, *the concerting or assisting any public Plan, which, to gratify the Ambition and Avarice of a FEW, must entail the Liberties of the Unborn.* Who, that will allow himself the least Reflection, can bring himself to tye the *indissoluble* Knot of Misery on the infant Hand, for the paltry Lucre of a *temporary* Place or Pension? Can the Promoters give an Equivalent for the Mite of a single Suffrage toward so iniquitous a Scheme? Some, it is true, may think their Families sufficiently *secured*, and Others may be indifferent to the Welfare of Posterity, as they are to their Procreation; but these are so very few, that this Argument may be said to be universally affecting.

I stand not single, my Lord, in this Opinion; thousands of honest Hearts can vouch its Truth, and Antiquity sanctifies the pious Tenet. Mar-

riages were encouraged as much to ſecure the Loyalty of the living Members to the Republic, by intereſting them in its Fate, as to increaſe its Potency by the Acceſſion of new ones. Eunuchs were introduced into Power by the politic *Cyrus*, as being detached from all Connexions with the preſent and future Race of Mankind, and, conſequently, devoted to his Deſigns. For the very ſame Reaſons they were excluded all Share in the Adminiſtration by the good *Severus*, who held them in Abhorrence: he ſaw both from Theory and Experience what Miſchief they were capable of; ſelfiſh, pampered, deſigning, ambitious, and deſtitute of every endearing Tie that enlarges and amends the human Heart, they aimed ſolely at their own Elevation, and were Enemies, by Principle, to the public Good. Among other diſtinguiſhing Parts of their Character in thoſe Times, we find the following *remarkable* one, CLAUDENTES *Principem ſuum, et agentes ante omnia* NE QUID SCIAT.

But to return to my Author. — The Tenor of what he labours, from his 5th to his 12th Page incluſively, ſeems to be this, as well as can be collected from the irregular and ambiguous Manner of his Writing; that our Veneration toward our Neighbour-Nation *ought* to be ſuch, as effectually ſhould ſtifle all Animoſities among us; that our Conſtitution is carried at preſent to the higheſt Pitch of human Perfection, and that nothing but the moſt unjuſtifiable Caprice could incline *us* to that *Deſire of Change* by which *we are now* ſo violently actuated. This, I think, includes the Subſtance of all that is ſaid in the above-mentioned

Interval,

Interval, and bears this obvious Paraphraſe; "that we *ought* to have, but have not, a great "*Veneration* for *England*, as *our common Parent*; "and that, omitting this, we break through all "Rules of *natural Affection*, *Gratitude*, *Intereſt*, "*Duty*, and *Dependence*;" "that our Conſtitu- "tion, though ſo excellent, is odious to the reſt- "leſs Spirits of this Iſland; that we are become "turbulent; and a *Faction* is *ſprouting* and *bud- "ing* among us, whoſe Intentions are to deſtroy "its *exquiſite Equilibrium*."

The Juſtice of theſe Inſinuations I leave to the public Deciſion, and the due Reſentment againſt the Propagators of them, to the Breaſt of every honeſt Man in the Kingdom; the Flame of conſcious Integrity and Loyalty muſt kindle, in an Inſtant, at ſuch inſolent Miſrepreſentations. But this is not all; we, who are Eye-witneſſes, can eaſily ſee and refute the Falſhood; it is not therefore intended for *us*; this babling Author does but echo the Cry of the Leaders of the Pack: the grand Machine to be played upon our Happineſs, is to confound the Intereſts of the Conſtitution with the Intereſts of the *Party*; and, on oppoſing the latter, we are repreſented, on the other Side of the Water, as *diſaffected Subjects* to our Sovereign, and *dangerous Rivals* to our *Engliſh* Brethren. Thus is private Ambition to be gratified under the Pretext of the public Good, all Oppoſers to be branded with the Epithet of *factious*, and the moſt diſhonourable Odium to be thrown upon the general Principles of this loyal People: nay, ſo far down does this deep-laid Plan deſcend,

that a paltry, mercenary Judge of Aſſize ſhall catch the Cue, and, on his Return from Circuit, make a ſolemn Report of the *Diſaffection* of a Set of Gentlemen of the moſt unſullied Fame, and extenſive landed Properties in their Counties; Vouchers and Securities for good Behaviour, ſufficient, one would imagine, to overthrow the Authority of the combined *Bench*.

But ſurely, we may, notwithſtanding this, keep up our Spirits, and not fear any bad Effect from this deteſtable Manner of Proceeding, however enraged we may be againſt the Authors of it. Our King, his Miniſters, and the People of *England*, will reſpect our *Actions* as the ſureſt *Spokeſmen* for our Principles, and will not fail to allow them all that Weight which we flatter ourſelves they deſerve. On a late important Juncture we manifeſted a Firmneſs to our preſent glorious Succeſſion, *full as* inviolable as any to be found in the royal Dominions. A great Part of this was, *doubtleſs*, owing to the *Statesman* who govern'd us at that Time: But I queſtion whether a political Caſuiſt would not allow *ſome ſmall* Portion of the Merit to the Diſpoſition of the People, eſpecially as there were ſome Commotions in our Neighbourhood, where there was a Multiplicity of Stateſmen at the Helm. To add an undeniable and more recent Proof of our carrying our Loyalty and Affection even to a *Nicety*, look back to the exemplary Proceedings againſt an inconſiderable Individual, tempted by an ill-judged Zeal to treat our Governors and *Engliſh* Friends in Words that ſeemed to want their due Reſpect,

and

and let our Alacrity, in punishing this offensive Incaution, speak aloud in our Behalf.

In short, it is to be seen through all this Part of our Author, that he would have us, in every Instance, consider ourselves as *Englishmen*; we are to venerate the Hem of every Garment which comes fresh out of *English* Air, and assist in the Promotion of *every Scheme* proposed to us by such as bear a Commission signed there, on Penalty of being stigmatized with the Mark of DISAFFECTED; and what is all this for? "Why "truly, says the Author, because, sooner or "later, we all have issued from thence."—Here, had he but Sense or Ingenuity to observe it, he has reconciled the whole Matter in his own Words; for though the Majority of us are descended from *English* Families, yet, I believe, few will be brought to think that it is of no consequence whether we have come *sooner* or *later* from thence; they, who fall under the last Predicament, have signalized themselves too much for us easily to forget the Distinction.

I cannot help repeating here a Circumstance, which, though low in itself, has Dignity enough to serve as an Illustration to our Author's Argument. An honest Fellow, of this Country, came to *London*, when I was there; I met him the Day he arrived, and made some Proffer of alleviating the solitary Uneasiness which Strangers usually feel in that Metropolis: *Let me alone, my Dear*, says he, *by my Soul, this is my own Country, FOR my Grandfather's* First Wife *was born in* Cheapside.

Thus,

Thus, my Lord, you have an *Iriſh* Tale for his more poliſhed one of the Nobleman and his Lady; which is ſo applicable, edifying, and new, that it calls for our Acknowledgments to the Author, who, really, between antique Quotations, and genteel modern Anecdotes, ſo agreeably diverſifies his Performance, that nothing can more ſtrongly diſplay the Union of the Scholar, and the pretty Gentleman.

In the Courſe of his expatiating on theſe Sentiments, it is not unpleaſant to obſerve, how he ſlides into a Variety of Expreſſions, extremely *picturesque*, and glowing with the proper Colours of ſome Characters whom he, by no means, intends to diſplay. Thus, in *Page* 5. "THEY "*muſt have very profligate Hearts, and very de-*"*viliſh Tempers, who would endeavour to raiſe the* "*Devil here; nay, they muſt be weak as well as* "*wicked*, &c. *and if it be only the Pride of heading* "*a Party, to raiſe their Dignity by demonſtrating* "*their Importance, the Reſult will probably diſap-*"*point*, &c." And in *P.* 10. "SUCH *as poſſeſs* "*large Shares of Wealth will be hot, tumultuous,* "*and unruly; they will not only be impatient of* "*Reſtraint, but graſp at Power*, &c." "PRIDE "AND PRESUMPTION *indefenſibly grow out of* "HASTY ADVANCEMENT, *and the greateſt Mor-*"*tification* TO UPSTART PRIDE, IS TO SEE THOSE "OF LESS WEALTH IN HIGHER RANK, AND "MORE RESPECTED, &c." But above all, in the Beginning of the 14th Page, one would imagine his chief Patron was ſitting for his Deſcription, though it is evident, on the whole of the Context,

Context, that it is a Scrap of that Scurrility vented every Day in Cabals againſt a Man who is an Honour to his Time, and to his Country. Many ſuch involuntary Likeneſſes of his own Friends may be ſeen through this Author's Performance.

Much more may be ſaid on this Part of the Pamphlet than is worth troubling you with; the Reader may ſee almoſt every Line abounding in Sentiments correſpondent with thoſe which I have already remarked.

But an extraordinary Stroke occurs in *P.* 11. He ſeems to retract a Conceſſion he was on the Point of making, and will not allow *us* any Degree of Opulence, for that would admit of an Inference by no Means to his Wiſhes. However, to comfort us, he immediately after aſſures us, that our moſt ſanguine Wiſhes would be anſwered, if *a Scheme, propoſed about two Years ago, ſhould take place*; and the only Fear the good-natured Gentleman has from this *glorious* Event is, that we ſhall grow too rich and too happy upon it, from whence may ariſe *Vanity*, and *Luxury*, and a *vicious*, *frantic*, and *profligate* Behaviour.

For my particular Part, though fifty Winters have ſo far reduced my Paſſions to the Authority of Reaſon, as to inſpire me with a thorough Diſguſt and Contempt for the Folly of Vanity and Luxury, yet I would, with great Security of Mind, give my Conſent to open the Sluice to all that Inundation of Wantonneſs with which this Author fears our Country would be overwhelmed in Conſequence of this Event. To be ſure it is hard to ſay, how far the Affection of our Neighbours

bours may tempt them to force upon us a Proportion of Happiness that may taint our Morals, and turn our Heads. But, I think, one may, with some Degree of Probability, say, that they would act the *Physician* as well as the *Friend*, and that every *Plethora*, which might accrue, would be prevented, from doing much Mischief, by proper *Evacuations*. Thus should we, in my Opinion, be secured from waxing wanton and vicious, but should any Degree of Infection steal in among us, we might have our Spiritual as well as *political Doctors* sent us, who, by their exemplary Lives, and excellent Endowments, would thoroughly exterminate every Kind of Immorality, and propagate the Interests of Virtue. The Specimens we are at present, and have been heretofore, blessed with, leave us no Room to doubt about their Conduct in this Particular.

I own I think it a little odd, that this worthy Author does not do us the Favour of dwelling a little upon this Subject, one would imagine that a *Catastrophe*, of this Nature, deserves a little Pains to recommend and make it palatable; for, whatever he may think, we, *of this Country*, cannot help thinking it a Change of too much Importance to be rashly agreed to; nay, I can tell him, that some of us have so much of the Stupidity of the Climate in our Brains, as not to see distinctly all these Advantages arising out of it to this Kingdom, which are so palpable to the Eyes of Politicians; and, what is more than all, some of these very Persons, whose Assent to the Affair may, *perhaps*, be deemed necessary, are positive enough

enough to think, that no human Assurances, no Compacts, though ever so solemn, no speculative Conclusions, though ever so artful and masterly, nothing under an immediate Voice from Heaven to inform it, can, or will, be sufficient with them, or any Man of Sense or Principle, to run the dreadful Hazard of the Effect of such a Scheme. This may, possibly, be an Error in us, and we may be pitied, by clearer-sighted People, as blind to our own Happiness: But our national Bigotry to old Customs is well known, and I really fear this is one of the Instances in which our Natures are irreclaimable.

But what are we to conclude from his superficial Manner of speaking of this *intended* Change? Surely, he can't be weak enough to think us reconciled to it: It is, therefore, either because it will not stand the Test of a minute and candid Discussion; or, that he imagines it needless, as impossible, to make it palatable to our Reason; for that it is not *now*, but our Passions are to be influenced, in order to effect this Scheme. Corruption and Mistakes are to be the Instruments to work with, and Ambition, Avarice, or Fear, the leading Qualities of every Man who joins in its Promotion.—

I shall not now, unnecessarily, detain your Lordship's, or the Reader's, Time, by enlarging on the many unanswerable Objections to this destructive Revolution; such as, the small Security we should have in our Representative Body, reduced (at least) to one Third of its present Size, and transported, once a Year, to stand our Bulwark

in the midſt of five hundred Perſons, who, tho' extremely well diſpoſed to the Welfare of this *uſeful* Iſland, may yet chance to differ, ſometimes, in Opinion from the aforeſaid tiny Corporation; the *Poſſibility* that, out of theſe our Champions, one half, or more, may ſo far contract an *Engliſh* Taſte, and fall in Love with ſome pretty Employments, as to forget poor *Ireland* in a good Meaſure; more eſpecially, as they might not have left many valuable Memorandums behind them; the Convenience that ſome of the current Coin of this Kingdom would be of to theſe our *Reſidents* in *London*; the Dilapidations that may accrue to Manſion-ſeats and Improvements, and Beggary to Tenants, by Means of their abſent Owners; the Addition to the Number of our, already too numerous, Abſentees; the Decay of our Metropolis in its Imports, Manufactures, Buildings, and Inhabitants; the Care that would be taken to prevent us from outſtripping our Neighbours, by levying a few ſuperfluous Shillings in the Pound, among many other ſalutary Laws, which would prodigiouſly encourage the Cultivation of this Country, and forward our preſent thriving Situation, and againſt which we could never murmur, as having given *our own Conſent*. — All theſe, and numberleſs other Conſiderations, that muſt ſtrike the Attention of every Perſon intereſted in the Fate of this Nation, I ſhall forbear to dwell upon at preſent, and refer the curious Reader for a more particular Inveſtigation of the Miſchiefs that muſt ariſe to us, from this Event, to two Pamphlets, publiſhed about two or three Years ago,

ago, in which he will find the principal Arguments, on both Sides, fet in Contraſt to each other, and will ſee, in the ſtrongeſt Light, the Superiority of the Negative.

It is an old Obſervation, my Lord, that there is no Tenet in Philoſophy ſo abſurd, but has had its Advocates; the ſame may be certainly ſaid of Politics; Vanity and Singularity are, generally, the Sources of the firſt, and may have their Share in the ſecond; but, I believe, there is an Ingredient in the latter, which ſeldom enters the Compoſition of the former, and that is Self-Intereſt. The Philoſopher is little the better whether a Planet be in *Conjunction* or not, though the Party-Writer may receive ſome Emolument from the *Union-Scheme*, the Speculator will never be the richer for ſhewing that this Globe of ours moves in a Circle or an Ellipſe, but the Politician may find his Account in driving us into *Excentricity* out of that *proper* and *diſtinct Orbit* in which our Creator has placed us, and in which we have revolved, with ſmall Variation, from the Beginning. This Hint every Reader, and Hearer, of new-fangled political Syſtems, ſhould bear in his Memory, and uſe his Caution accordingly, more eſpecially at this Time, when a temporary Power of *diſtributing* makes it the *Intereſt* of many to recommend a Scheme, which a ſmall Share of Penetration muſt demonſtrate to be the moſt monſtrous, deteſtable, and pernicious, that ever was formed againſt the Happineſs of a Kingdom.

But I am growing more prolix than I intended; ſo hard it is to controul a Courſe of Thought on

an interesting Subject, be the provoking Cause ever so mean and frivolous.

The Interval, from the 14th to the 17th Page inclusive, is a Jargon of the thickest laid Falsehoods that were ever obtruded on the Public, as, indeed, it must necessarily be, when the Design was to vindicate the most iniquitous Plan of Proceedings that was ever concerted against the Repose of a deserving People. The many Untruths and Contradictions, that every Line contains, I shall leave to the Animadversion of every Reader who knows any Thing of the Transactions of last Session; one or two, only, I cannot refrain from speaking to. The first is, the strange Metamorphosis he speaks of, where "*the fawning Courtiers, "as if touched by some magic Wand, at once be-"come Patriots; and many, who had formerly passed "for staunch Patriots, there sold to turn Courtiers.*"

Now, the Truth of that Matter is, that *those*, who then became (as he says) Patriots from Courtiers, in Fact underwent no Change, at all, but in the *Manner* of exerting their former constant Principles; they were always *Patriots* in the true Sense of the Word; they shewed an equal Attachment to both Parts of the Constitution, in order to keep the Ballance poised, and thereby preserve the Good of the whole; they kept up the Dignity of the Crown, because it was necessary to the Support and Happiness of the People. On the other Hand, these splenetic Opposers, who (as our Author says) *had formerly passed for staunch Patriots*, either from Envy or personal Pique to the Head of the other Interest, or the

Hopes of having their mighty Eloquence and Importance brought lower by warm Employments; these Gentry, to their immortal Honour, these PATRIOTS, united all their Force with that Association, whose every Scheme tended, in the most dangerous Degree, to the Ruin of the Country. The *first* acted consistently with their Conduct of many Years before; they *were* and *are* the Guardian-Angels of that political Equipoise, on which our Felicity depends; and, as such, flew off at the Appearance of *Ambition* encroaching under the Mask of *Authority*.

How conformable the Conduct of the other Side, on this Occasion, was to their former Declarations, is most contemptibly apparent. Good Heaven! what a Sight! to see the HONEST MAN, the *inflexible Prince of Patriots*, standing single in the Negative to every Resolution that passed a Censure on a *diligent Servant of the Public*, and, through him, on his Supporters, who made the Protection of a Miscreant the Trial of their Abilities, which were next to be turned upon the Vitals of the Country! How low is he fallen! How irretrievably lost in every Opinion!

But, to do Justice to his Masters, he has got his Reward, and so have others of the same Class; so that, though inconsistent with their Appellation, they have exactly pursued their Intentions, which, doubtless, long have been to watch a divided Channel of Power, and throw themselves into *that*, whose Waters may raise them on the Surface, though their Country should perish in the Deluge; by this they have the double Enjoy-

ment

ment of oppoſing the Intereſt they inveterately hate, and receiving thoſe Emoluments from one Side, which their Want of Principle, and Want of Conſequence, have long ſince ſhut the Door againſt from the other.

You remember, my Lord, *Shakeſpear*'s Image of the Fluctuation of human Matters, *the Tide in the Affairs of Men, which taken at the Flood leads on to Fortune; omitted, all the Voyage of their Lives is bound in Shallows.* — To this Tide have our *Patriots* committed themſelves; and, I fancy, a political Philoſopher will think they are now at High-Water.

But for ever be remembered, for ever honoured, the Names of the illuſtrious Few, who, though formerly hurried, by their Friendſhips and Connexions, into a Path diſtinct from our Country's Friends, now generouſly relinquiſhed every inferior Gratification, and buried every private Animoſity in Oblivion! Their COUNTRY called, and ſpread its inviting Banner, to which, with Alacrity, they repaired, and, by their inviolable Firmneſs, ſhared the Glory of its Victory.

The String of Interrogatories, ſo impudently produced in the 17th Page, are, really, very unparallelled; there is not a ſingle one of them to which an Anſwer, directly contrary to the Wiſh of the Queſtioner, may not be, with the greateſt Truth, returned; I ſhall, therefore, take my Leave of them, and proceed to the grand Deſign of his Work which next appears, only obſerving the great Modeſty and Reaſonableneſs of our Author, in deciding ſo material a Matter by his

ſingle

ſingle Authority, as he does toward the End of this Page.

Give Ear, ye Nations, let *England*, *Ireland*, and *Italy* rejoice at the Sound of the Praiſe, and Enumeration of the VIRTUES, of our Metropolitan! An arduous Taſk!—But our Author takes the eaſieſt, and, indeed, the only, Method of performing it; he invents, and aſſerts, them. Conſcious of his own Dependence on him, he takes more than ordinary Pains to blind us into a Belief of his Impartiality, confeſſes, that *what comes from a Man, tied faſt to a Party, muſt paſs for nothing*, and blunders at the Author of *Roger*, rather than omit a Stroke at a Pamphlet, which is never to be forgiven by the Proprietors of the Characters it ſo humourouſly, and juſtly, expoſes.

To repreſent the Man, who is in this Kingdom the beſt intitled to the firſt Honours, and greateſt Confidence, both of his Sovereign and every Vice-Roy, as diſcontented *only* on Account of the Preference ſhewn to another, and every Odium thrown upon the laſt as taking its Riſe entirely from this Source, is an Inſinuation as ridiculous as falſe. It is, indeed, very true, that a Deficiency of *proper Qualifications* prevented the firſt from being joined in *the Cabal*, and changed that Deference, which was his Due, into an inſolent and inveterate Oppoſition. We will allow that he has, all his Life, wanted Paſſions and Principles adapted to the *managing* Junto, and he is, at the ſame Time, ſo happy as to want every Wiſh of enjoying what he is thus, by Nature, unqualified for; but to reſt the numberleſs Imputations thrown,

thrown, from *every Quarter*, upon the other, on this chimerical Foundation, no Person will consent to, when *Vouchers*, and *Facts*, offer every Day to support them.

I shall not, however, unnecessarily task myself to develope the Injustice of the Eulogiums which our Author has here so plentifully bestowed on his Patron; they are, indeed, no more to the promised Intent of his Book, than a Catalogue of the Virtues of an Hero of Antiquity; for though the Head of our Church were indued with every Excellence of St. *Peter* in his private Capacity, few Persons would therefore rest their political Belief on his Infallibility, and follow him blindfold into destructive Measures, though his Sanctity were infinitely more rigid than even his own Writer adventures to describe it.

I shall, therefore, only desire the Reader to observe, whether he does not see this *Artificer* of Virtues chuckle at his Arrival in his well-known Province of Adulation, and revel there at large: With what a prodigious Shew of Impartiality he conducts the whole; and how particularly eminent this appears in two of his Assertions; one, that the blackest Crime alleged is *impossible* to be true; the other, that none of these Aspersions were thrown till within these three Years. A competent Knowlege of human Nature will sufficiently answer the first, and every Person's Memory the latter.

The subsequent Story is of the same Connexion with the Title Page as the precedent Encomiums; but he has descanted on it in such a Manner, that I must beg Leave to speak a few Words to it.

That

That the Offer, there mentioned, was made to that Nobleman, all, that I have met with, rest thoroughly convinced of; that on being made public, it was flatly and peremptorily *denied* by the worthy *Source* of the Proposal, is also, in the highest Degree, credible, and as universally allowed to be no Argument against the *Fact*; it is, indeed, most exactly of a Piece with many other Procedures of the same Person. And, that the Offer was TANTI will, I believe, be as little controverted. Were the Acquisition of a Person of his Rank and Property (whose very Appearance, in Favour of a Cause, must throw more Lustre and Credit upon it, than the whole Bench of Bishops) of no more Value than this Author pleases to represent it, yet even *one*, *two*, or *three* Voices would be worth a *Promise* to the desperate Party; and how much more than a Promise would be paid for any such Services, when the Scale was once turned, may be judged from the distinguishable Honour and Honesty of the Promiser, and other Leaders of that Side of the Question. Supposing, therefore, all the Disparity that is insinuated between the Offer and the Value to be received for it; yet, to every one who is acquainted with the Character and Conduct of the Bidders (and the lowest of the People, they *would govern*, consider them in their proper Light) it will never affect the Probability of the Fact, but only demonstrate the wretched Despondency they were then labouring under, offering exorbitant Interest for ready Money, like Bankers on the Point of failing. But that the Person *attempted*

is, and will be, of more Weight and Significance, in the political Ballance, than a *Feather*, or a *Grain of Sand*, we will submit to the Determination of the Event, when every Friend of *Ireland* shall, with Joy, behold it preponderate on the usual Side; Ambition, Avarice, Corruption, and Vice of every Kind, will then *fly up and kick the Beam*, and there suspend aloft most eminently ridiculous to the most inconsiderable Spectators.

The Author's Art, in this Place, is really pleasant enough; he would invalidate the Charge by telling us, "that this Proposal was made to the "Nobleman *at second hand, and to that second by a "third*; this, says he, must take away all Authority from the Story; nor could one of *his Experience and acknowledged Abilities* be so indirect in conducting such a Scheme." We will, indeed, allow his Patron to have some Experience and Abilities in *bugger-mugger, private* Matters, though destitute of every Quality requisite for public Administration; good Sense, and Cunning, are not only distinct, but rather incompatible, and he must be dreadfully unfurnished with the latter, who would, in Person, make so criminal an Offer to one whose Integrity would flame at the Mention, and prompt him not only to expose, but instantly chastise, in proper Terms, the insolent Proposer. It is true, indeed, that even in this Case an *easy* Recourse could have been had to *the vile Expedient*; the whole Proceeding could have been *flatly and peremptorily denied*, but not to much Purpose; for, I believe, few will think, with our Author, that *neither* of the Parties could be capable

ble of a direct Lie; so that the blank Overture would, in such a Case, have been instantly and directly fixed on the prime Source of it. All this was foreseen, and Emissaries, therefore, employed to employ others to make the Proposal to the Person aimed at; by passing thus through a Multiplicity of Hands, it became easy, at any Time, to deny, and retract, and throw a Mist, as they imagined, around the whole Affair, in Case of a Refusal. But I cannot help thinking it was a little shallow; for the Method of Proceeding was so extremely *like* and *natural*, that it throws the highest Lustre of Credibility on the Story, against which the Author produces it as a formidable Argument.

If it were so true, that the mitred Invader of our Peace *is as much above every sordid Art of Corruption, and has so much Virtue of his own to trust for the* public *or private Virtue of another*, as that the Nobleman, before-mentioned, *scorns every Temptation to Venality*, and exerts a Spirit that will make him honoured and beloved by Posterity, our Church and State would not be infested and dishonoured as they now are by the Possessor of the first Dignities in both.

The additional Motive urged, at the same Time, to gain this noble Proselyte, our Author treats as incredible from its Absurdity; and the Absurdity, according to him, consists in these two Particulars; 1st. "That a Man must divest "himself of *all Probity* before he could bring him-"self to think of such an Expedient." 2. "That "it was what he, nor no Man upon Earth, could

"undertake for, nor, with all the Power of the "Crown centered in himself, could make good."
The first we will readily grant as an undeniable Proposition, but, by no Means, as an Argument; the second we must as readily deny, and, for its Falsity, refer every Reader to a short Reflection on the Nature of our Constitution, by which, as well as by a little Experience, he will plainly see the Connection between those who have the Power of appointing, and Sheriffs, or other returning Officers, Juries, and Judges; these last particularly are well known to have much Influence even on Trials, where they are properly no more than Explainers and Pronouncers of the Law, (to the Shame of *those* who are the *only*, the *true*, and *independent* Judges of our Properties) not to mention the many Circumstances in which we have no Assistance from our *Peers*, but depend solely for our Happiness on *judicial* Decisions. In short, let the Superintendency of a Parliament be once taken off, by securing a *devoted* Majority *there*, and place the *well-matched* Cabal at the Helm, and not only the Nobleman in Question, but every Man of Property in the Nation, shall acknowledge, from bitter Experience, the *Possibility* of our Properties being affected by a Change of Administration.

As to the Subject of our Author's Panegyric, being *neither Knave or Fool* — Were we not concerned in the Effects of his Qualities, he is intrinsically too mean to detain us a Moment by the Discussion of them: But since he is sent us as a *temporary* Scourge for our Sins, I will take the

Pains

Pains to say, that, as to the first, he shall be allowed this fair and *applicable* Trial; he shall stand or fall by the Test on which *Abraham* rests the Salvation of SODOM; if there be found one candid Heart in one hundred that will acquit him, the charitable Side shall prevail, and, for the Sake of that one, the World will acquit him also.

As to his being a Fool.—Besides that Share of Folly which always accompanies the former Part of his Character, I fancy his political Measures will never much redound to the Honour of his Wisdom, take the Argument which Way you will, either from the *Means*, or the *Event*.

His Advocate next proceeds (in P. 27.) to enumerate a pretty round Catalogue of *slighter* Articles exhibited against his Client by the Public; slighter, indeed, they are, tho' they would make a Figure any where else. But I shall not fatigue myself with following him through all the Articles of his Expurgation. The Display of the Inside of the House in particular makes me sick. Nor shall I refute the Defence made for the Neglect of his Diocese; if he would but abstain from his *Commissions*, we would readily pardon his *Omissions*; there are many Precedents for the latter, but very few for the former; not above two or three upon our Records. Nor shall I now be so needlessly severe on the rest of our mitred Peers as to say, that their *unnatural* Situation in the Legislature has been the Cause of more Commotions, than any other one Defect in our Constitution. What avails it to murmur? (as our Author justly insinuates.) Is it not better to wait, in silent Patience,

for

for that happy Æra, which our good Creator has certainly fixed for our Delivery from Inchantment and Infatuation!

As to his Associates and Diversions, his Council here does not seem to plead against the *Facts*, but demurs to the *Crime*; and, according to Custom, puts us a Set of Questions, at the End of the 30th Page, almost every one of which may be answered to the Prejudice of the Accused. The last Article of the Charge is, I confess, with me no Crime at all; I have been so miserably pestered with black Gowns at Levees, that I should heartily join in their Extirpation.

Pages 32, and 33, contain some admirable abstracted Observations, ornamented with a Quotation from the venerable *Æschylus*, and an unanswerable one from the polite *Tacitus*. Much may be said, however, on the Word *Precepts*.

But we are now arrived, my Lord, at the only material Question in the Book; *Is he the Friend of our Country, and well affected to our Interest?* Our Author makes short Work of the Proof of the Affirmative, and that in so satisfactory a Manner, that every Reader must, after the Perusal, rest convinced, that *he* has no Attachment, can have none, *elsewhere*; that his Income must suffer sooner, and more surely, by any additional Grievances that may affect this Nation, than the perpetual, landed Interests; that he is, by no means, a *Creature*, but great and independent *ab initio*, and, consequently, no fit Tool, or Instrument, for an *Occasion*; that were the Nation to suffer Shipwreck, no Care *could*, or *would*, be

taken

taken to preserve his Revenue and Grandeur; that his Cares and Schemes are, by no means, confined to his own Life, but that, with a pious Solicitude, he looks forward, and consults the Happiness of After-Ages; that his Inclinations and Connections are such as must necessarily induce him to promote Peace and Harmony among us, as he is, at this Instant, doing; that *no possible Change can happen in which he could be greater, or even so great as he is*, as plainly appears by his not being in that State of miserable Restlessness, which must torment a Man, of his laudable Ambition, if he had a *Superior* in Friends, Interest, or Deserts; in short, there can be no Doubt but every honest and intelligent Reader, from these Arguments, and a Retrospection on his Conduct, Schemes, and Associates, must resolve to conspire his best Wishes in Favour of this Person who is so closely interested in the Fate of us ALL; who, as our spiritual Father, must be supposed to bless and pray for the People of his Predecessor St. *Patrick*, and who has so many Motives to stand our Friend, superior to them which actuate the other Person, whom we have, for several Years, so ridiculously doated on and admired.

But I should ask Pardon, my Lord, for growing ludicrous. The Subject does not, indeed, permit it, tho' the Author's Arguments do. It is true, no better could be had; but it was quite Fool-hardy to produce them.

Upon the Whole, my Lord, you have *heard his Defence*, and whether the Author *is a bad Advocate*, or his Patron *innocent and faultless*, you, and

and every other Perſon in the World, will, indeed, moſt palpably perceive.

I beg your Lordſhip to obſerve what noble Productions reſult from a muddy, undiſtinguiſhing, Underſtanding, agitated by a Virulence of Heart; how a ſtupid Vehemence hurries a Writer into Arguments, Expreſſions, and Diſcoveries, that expoſe to Ridicule and Abhorrence thoſe very Characters in whoſe Behalf his Paſſion prompted him to take the Pen. This Book would certainly never have appeared, had he conſulted any commonly-rational Friend, or even any of the Heroes of his Tale, before he committed it to the Preſs; I own, were I in their Situation, I would confine this reverend *Furioſo*, and debar him the Uſe of Ink and Paper, until the Purpoſes of the Party were effected; then, indeed, he may be let looſe, for tho' he would ſpoil any Cauſe he eſpouſed, while Matters were in Suſpence, yet, when the Nation was once *ſecured*, he would do admirably well to inſult and worry; then Calumny, Scurrility, and Inſolence, would have unlimited Indulgence, and who would preſume to anſwer or reſent? But, as Matters now ſtand, this mad Eccleſiaſtic muſt do infinite Miſchief; and, I believe, they perceive this ſo far already, that we ſhall not find the Public inſulted by any more Productions of the ſame Hand.

But I ſhall ſay no more on this Head; every honeſt Mind muſt conceive an adequate Odium againſt this Performance of our Author, and I would not be thought to carry even the juſteſt Reſentment too far. Tho' he has failed with the Public,

Public, yet his Friends may, probably, forgive him for the Sake of his Intention; he will be allowed some Merit as the first, tho' unsuccessful, Writer for the Party, and God may forgive him, and *Aaron* reward him.

Again, my Lord, I must ask Forgiveness for digressing, you know it is my Way, even on Paper. I was led into it by the Incoherency and Obscurity of this Writer's Ideas, of which a fresh Instance presented itself in the next Paragraph; I mean that in which he attempts to convey a true Notion of Patriotism. The Beginning of his Observation, on this Head, is not Sense. Yet his Meaning, on the whole, is plainly this, that real Patriotism consists more in complying sometimes with the Demands of our Governors, than in a rigid Perseverance to the exact Liberties of the People; the Tendency of this is pretty easily seen. Then, says he, "We should sometimes *humour* "them in their *Demands*, tho' they should fall "short of, or go beyond, what, in Strictness, "we may have a *Right* to expect." And though, in one or two Places, he hits on a just Thought, yet this is apparently his Aim. Every one knows the first Step taken for the Introduction of every Vice, is to ridicule the Inflexibility and rigid Scrupulousness of Virtue.

This political Maxim will never, I believe, stand the Test either of Experience or Reason; As to the first, History will evince, that the *Magistrate* never desired to be *humoured* but with a bad Design, and was never indulged in it without dismal Consequences; and as to Reason, that, I

believe, will never be ſatisfied that the People ſhould ever abridge their *Rights* by the Size of a Grain of Sand to *humour* any Perſon who is employed, and intruſted, *for no other Purpoſe*, but the exact and nice Preſervation of even the ſmalleſt of theſe very Rights. Tho' this *Indulgence* ſhould never go farther than a certain Limit, yet it is *ſo far* a *Wrong*, and the Aſſertion of its Propriety as much a *Falſhood*, as if it were to be ever ſo extenſive; it is not, therefore, by any Means, to be received among a free People, even in the moſt reſtrained Senſe.—But what End can be put to this Argument? May it not be uſed to purloin from us every Liberty, every Bleſſing, we enjoy, by inſenſible Degrees; if the Deſires of the Governor are to be the *Modus* of the People's Compliance, what an unbounded Field ſhall we have for *Civility!*

Here, my Lord, are *Manwaring*, *Montague*, and *Sibthorp* again for us; theſe are the identical Doctrines that were propagated through *England* to pay Homage to the infernal *Laud* at the Expence of the Nation's Peace and Welfare. *Reſpect*, *Compliance*, and *dutiful Acquieſcence*, are Dreſſes worn above theſe hundred Years by *Fear*, *Servility*, and *Diſpiritedneſs*, three Gentry who are always in waiting to conduct us to the Temple of *ſpiritual* and *civil Slavery*. But we have profited little by our Annals, if we commit our Happineſs to the Care of any political *Undertakers* either in Black or Red.

Thanks be to God, we are bleſſed with a Sovereign, who, thro' the whole Courſe of his

Reign, has rather ſhewn a paternal Willingneſs to humour his People, than the leaſt Inclination to do any Thing that would require an *Indulgence* from them, whatever his Servants may do. He does, he muſt, affectionately love *us*; for we have ſhewn, to a Demonſtration, that we love *him*, and his Nature is too generous not to be grateful. He, therefore, can never be diſpleaſed that we ſhould deny ſuch *Favours* to a Deputy, as *he* could not bring himſelf to aſk, nor even deſire. Let our *Adverſaries* pretend what they may, our Loyalty to Him will never be queſtioned by our Steadineſs in refuſing. Our Monarch glories in ruling a Free People, and *we*, as Part of that People, cannot yield a Particle of our Privileges, without derogating by ſo much from *his* Dignity.

Having effectually perſuaded us, that it is our Duty, as good Patriots, to be very *good*, and *complying*, and *civil*, and *complaiſant*, to our *Superiors*, he inforces it by aſſuring us it will be *ſafer*, as well as more *reputable*, to do ſo; here is a little *Coax*, and a little *Threat*, for us, and, to treat us like compleat Children, he tells us, that if we will be *good Boys*, *this once*, and not make a *Noiſe* to diſturb *Buſineſs*, we ſhall have full Liberty of ſpeaking, and acting, our Fill any *other Time*; the Intereſt of our Country (he tells us) is not *now* at Stake; let us ſit down ſecure until *they tell us* it is, and then — we may *exert our Zeal* — like a new-catched Bird in a Cage.

But, my Lord, my Eye is caught by a very alluring Paragraph, at the End of the 37th Page, to which I muſt, therefore, haſten; for it is, in-

deed, a *Coup de Grace*. He introduces it, by putting a Queſtion (which *really* occurs to every Man in the Kingdom) into the Mouth of *a hot-headed 'Squire*, and then cenſuring it as a Specimen of the *Unpoliteneſs* of the Party. This Gentleman, whoſe Politeneſs and Humanity are ſo ſtrongly diſplay'd in every Line of his Performance, is ſo nice, as to be terribly offended at the Coarſeneſs of this Expreſſion. But, I believe, ſome will be brought to think with me, that this Interrogatory is put in the ſtrongeſt Terms that Conciſeneſs will admit of, and that in the two Words, *Parſon* and *Dragoon*, is implied the whole Force of that Argument which Thouſands of honeſt Hearts are, at this Moment, replete with; in this Senſe are they to be taken, and not as indecent or ſcurrilous Appellations. *Parſon* and *Dragoon* are uſeful, proper, and unblameable, acting in their Spheres, at a Viſitation, or Review; but to aſſume the Direction of a Kingdom, abounding with their Superiors in Family, Fortune, and real Conſequence, can never be reconciled to common Reaſon, and common Spirit; to remind them of their *proper Occupations* becomes then the only Method of pointing out the Impropriety of their inſolent Ambition.

But this was to be paſſed over by the Author; his Intent was ſufficiently anſwered, if an Odium could any Way be thrown on the *'Squires*, a Set of Men very obnoxious to him and his Patrons, and a formidable Obſtruction to their Meaſures. You ſee he allows, in this Place, that, by *ſuch*, the

the *Opposition* is conducted; for which Truth we thank him, and glory in the Confession.

But we must speak of these *our Governors* in *fair Words* and *civil Language*, nay, however they may remind us of their original and proper Callings by their Conduct, yet Memory and Reason must be stifled, and, act as they may, they must be respected; one, as *his Majesty's Minister*, (he gives no other Reason) and the other for his *Birth*, *Fortune*, and *Qualities*; besides, he read Logic in *our University*; an eternal Honour to that Seat of Learning; for this Logic he now displays in his *energic Orations* for the Good of this Kingdom, which (our Author says) he, upon all Occasions, endeavours his utmost to promote. In short, he *has promoted several of our Countrymen to high Stations*, and now humbly begs Leave to have universal Power, in order to continue his Benevolence to the *Irish* Nation, and serve them in the Lump, whom, before, he could only serve by Individuals.

But the best is to come. "Why not," says our Author, "why should we not be governed "by a Parson and a Dragoon, if the King pleases "to delegate to them his Power?" Why really, good Sir, I believe they take Care already to be properly respected, and obeyed, in those several Provinces to which the King has appointed them; nor have I heard any Murmurs against the *public Authority* with which one of them is honoured; so far, I allow, your Question extremely pertinent, and when the King *can bring himself* to indulge the earnest Desire which the other has

for

for the like Dignity, we ſhall, I doubt not, *univerſally* reſpect him *as ſuch*; even tho' there ſhould be another diſplaced to make Room for him, who, we may imagine, has the beſt, and almoſt an indelible, Right to it. It is poſſible, indeed, we may be ſome what uneaſy at the Exchange, (much more ſo, I promiſe you, than himſelf, excepting his Concern for the Public:) we ſhould think too, perhaps, that our Nation may ſuffer *ſome* Decay in ſuch Hands. — But, I am perſuaded, the leading Men of the Country would wait for a *direct* Attempt on our Laws, before they would teſtify the leaſt Want of Reſpect to thoſe to whom *the King would think fit to delegate his Power.*

But what is all this to the Purpoſe? Does it follow, becauſe they bear the King's Appointments, as to particular Exertions of Authority, that therefore every Thing they propoſe muſt meet with implicit Veneration and Obedience? Muſt every Man, howſoever great and reſpected in his Country, truckle to two Baſhaws, whoſe *Commiſſions* authorize them only to bluſter at the Head of a Regiment, and ſwagger in a Conſiſtory? Muſt every national Scheme be regulated by their *Fiat*, and even the Legiſlature proſtituted to their Pleaſure? Or, rather, do they not, in the higheſt Degree, inſult their Sovereign, who has exalted them, by uſing his Delegation as a Sanction for ſuch Purpoſes, as, did he fully know their Nature and Tendency, his own honeſt Heart muſt abhor.

But, in the next Breath, our Author produces another Paradox; "*The Military*," ſays he, "*and*

" *and Eccleſiaſtical deſerve Attention as much as* " *any other Part of our Eſtabliſhment, and ſuch as* " *are ſuppoſed to underſtand them beſt are undoubtedly* " *fitteſt to preſide in them*;" [his Inference is obviouſly this, tho' not expreſſed] *Ergo*, they are the fitteſt to preſide over the whole Nation. The firſt Part of this Argument I ſhall leave to the Reader's Contemplation, with this Hint, that if the Military and Eccleſiaſtical now deſerve *Attention, as much as any other* Part of our Conſtitution, we may be aſſured that, in a little Time, they will be the *only* Parts to be conſidered, if the *others* do not take proper Care of themſelves. — But I wonder my Author ſhould have forgot his Syllogiſms; they could have helped him to put this Argument into a prettier Method; as thus;

Men are compounded of a Soul and Body,

Now, the Parſon preſerves the firſt, and the Dragoon the ſecond;

Ergo, the Parſon and Dragoon have the whole Man under their Preſervation. And then, from this Concluſion, by an undeniable Enthymeme, he might have inferred, that the Parſon and Dragoon are the fitteſt Men in the World to preſide at the Helm, and govern all the Reſt of Mankind.

" But hold," ſays he, " pray not ſo faſt, *Par-* " *ſons and Dragoons are to the full as fit for Miniſ-* " *ters of State, as Graziers or Fox-hunters, eſpe-* " *cially if ſuitable Parts and Education have recom-* " *mended them to that Diſtinction. It cannot ſurely* " *be a Queſtion which is fitteſt for the Poſt, he that* " *was bred at Court, and early formed in the beſt*

" *School*

" School of Politicks and good Manners, where the " various Diſpoſitions and Tempers of Men are only " to be learned, and how to be applied, and " managed, to the Advantage of the Publick; or he " that has been trained among Dogs and Horſes, " Bullocks and Sheep, where a Man is likelier to " loſe the little Good that Nature had put into him, " than to improve it, and can learn little more than " how to make his Neighbour firſt drunk, and then " bite him in a Bargain; and if he ever emerges and " ſteps into higher Life, is ſure to bring with him " that Awkwardneſs and Bluntneſs, which, though " paſſing among the Vulgar for Marks of Honeſty, " are in that State of no other Uſe than to make him " ridiculous."

This is one of the many Places where our Author's Paſſion has blinded his Caution, and for which, I dare ſay, he has *borne a Bang* from his Maſters; they never commiſſioned him to retail to the Public what was ſaid, in Confidence and Warmth, at their Tables and other Meetings. It is alſo one of theſe Paſſages which puzzled me, as to his real Intention, before I became more minutely acquainted with his Manner.

I ſhall do no more, after having thus recited it *verbatim*, than leave it, as the genuine Senſe of the Cabal againſt this Kingdom's Peace, to the Conſideration of every Gentleman of Fortune therein, and of every other Perſon who eſteems our landed Intereſt, and has even an ordinary Share of Penetration, which will be ſufficient clearly to point out to him the innumerable Miſeries which a Party, actuated by ſuch Sentiments, muſt

must, in Consequence of Success, inevitably, and irretrieveably, bring upon our Nation. We must, indeed, be in our Understandings, (as we shall certainly, and deserve to be, in wretched Servitude) lower than the most abject of the Brutes he has levelled us with, if we do not take the *Hint*, and repel these Invaders of our Happiness with a Spirit suitable to our own Importance, and their Demerits.

Tho' this last Passage carries a general Appearance, it is easily seen, that a View is particularly had, thro' the whole, toward him who is the beloved, and well-tried, Head of that Set of Men, against whom this Piece of Scurrility is levelled; and he, whose true Dignity, and unaffected Ease in his public Character, and unsullied Integrity in every Path of Life, his keenest Enemies have long confessed, is here represented, by a mercenary Scribler, as an awkward Clown, scarce a Degree above a Brute, and *getting drunk with his Neighbour in Order to bite him in a Bargain.*

His noble Correspondent, being curious in vegetable Nature, is next presented, by our Author, with a Simile, that made me laugh heartily when I first perused this Book; and, tho' thus ridiculous, it carries black Virulence and Gall in every Word. This Malignity, couched under a dispassionate Appearance, inclined me much, for a Time, to ascribe the whole Performance to the reverend Mountebank I pointed at in the Beginning of my Letter. You know the Man, my Lord, and his Kind of *Wit*; you will not, therefore, I fancy, esteem this Allusion below his Dignity; if you should, you have but to picture

to yourself the Shrug, the grotesque Look, the Turn of Voice, and all them other Recommendations of his Humour, which I have seen you stare at, while others laughed; picture these to your Fancy, and you will find the Thought full worthy of him. I think you may see in it the Spite that naturally arises from Detection and Disgrace. I may be mistaken, but I shrewdly suspect him. This Passage is extremely *like*, and the whole Book displays Judgment enough to be his. You know how much of the latter appeared, whenever he ventured to digress from the Province that characterised him.

Had the Author of this Metaphor considered his youthful Hero merely as a *Vegetable*, (and as such only can any Excellence be found, or, indeed, any Character be given of him) we might have allowed the Justice of it; but it can never be applied to him as a *Man*. I will, therefore, beg Leave to help him to a Kind of Rhapsody in its Stead, every Image whereof will be universally allowed to be taken from Nature, and is full as poetical as his own.

"*Behold*, and admire, the Appearance of that "flourishing Tree, which hath risen to the most "noble Maturity, and stands, as it long hath "stood, the Glory of the Forest! whose salutary "Influence hath nourished and refreshed the am-"bient Soil! under whose delightful Umbrage "all is verdant, all is healthful; which hath "protected the thriving tender Herbage from "the *envious eastern* Blast, tho' attacked, thro' a "Course of Years, by all the united Force of "the Elements from without, and by the Per-"fidy

" fidy of those Insects from within, sprung into
" Existence under the genial Warmth of its
" Shade, and, when raised from their *Aurelia*
" State, turned their ungrateful, tho' feeble,
" Efforts on the Leaves that gave them Being;
" behold it still flourishing in a green old Age!
" its Honours fresh upon its tow'ring Head; its
" vigorous Root confirmed by all the Attempts
" to shake it, while its luxuriant Branches are
" the sure unfailing Protection of all that vegetate
" around!"

" See now the Contrast. — Behold in its Neigh-
" bourhood yon starveling Twig! a wretched
" Off-shoot from a rotten Trunk! unendowed by
" Nature with *Stamina* capable of Maturity, and
" inclined to wither before it blooms! Behold!
" all starved and blasted that falls under its
" noxious, tho' confined, Influence! while Ca-
" terpillars, driven from the other's Shade,
" hang in Clusters on its bending Head, and
" prey upon its Vitals!"

He next proceeds to inform us of what the Public Ear has long been pestered with, the *well-judged* Compliments paid by *several* Boroughs to the *distinguished Merit* of their *Patrons and Friends*; we are, indeed, quite sick of this Din, our News-Papers are gorged and surfeited with *Puffs* and *Repetitions*. And, indeed, considering the Numbers, the Capacities, and Principles of these complimenting Corporations, it is no Wonder their Friends and Patrons should be so prodigiously elated; surely such Unanimity of Applause must be the sweetest Music to their *honest Ears*, and

can be deemed no leſs than the *Vox Populi*, the univerſal Cry in their Favour!

But pray, my Lord, obſerve the Repetition of that old laſt Shift of the loſing Side, which our Author has, more than once, endeavoured to play upon us; I mean, the repreſenting the Party he hates as irretrieveably plunged in the Torrent of adverſe Fortune, and inculcating the *Prudence* of not ſtriving againſt the Stream. This muſt be, to every Reader, a Specimen of this Author's great Abilities, and, in Conjunction with the diſpiriting Sarcaſms in the ſame Paragraph, and that elegant Morſel of ancient and modern Hiſtory annexed, cannot fail to ſtrike the Gentleman they are aimed at, and his Friends, with the deepeſt Deſpair; perhaps to ſuch a Degree, as to induce him not to wait for the threatened *Tumble*, but voluntarily to reſign his Place to the illuſtrious *third Perſon*, who leans on the *firſt Perſon*.—How powerful is Learning in inforcing political Meaſures! How irreſiſtable are Quotations for perſwading Men out of *common Senſe*!

The *growing Hopes* of this admirable *third Perſon* are, doubtleſs, a ſtrong Temptation to aſſiſt him in his Deſign; For tho' *there is no undertaking poſitively for another, nor can any one promiſe how he may carry himſelf when he has climbed the laſt Step of the political Ladder*, yet even his preſent *promiſing Appearances* are full ſufficient to make us quit, in his Behalf, a Man, of whoſe unexceptionable Conduct there are, indeed, no *growing Hopes*, for they have long ſince been loſt and ſunk in Conviction. Beſides He really has ſome of the *true*

old

old Mileſian *Blood* in him, an irrefragable Objection againſt him in the Breaſt of every *Iriſh-man*. Nay, were he fit, in every other Inſtance, to remain in his *old Place*, yet two Defects there are in him which muſt, for ever, render him odious and contemptible; one is, his Name, which is ſo ſhockingly diſagreeable in its Sound, that it has always been a Bar againſt Honour, Truſt, and Preferment, to thoſe who have been poſſeſſed of the ſame unhappy Circumſtance. The other is, his Accent, which is ſo exceſſive *drauling*, and *provincial*, that it abſolutely makes him unqualified to *ſpeak* for a Body of Men, to every Individual of whom he is ſo prodigiouſly inferior in this Particular. If theſe Reaſons are not thought ſufficient for excluding him, the Reader may ſee many more, full as juſt and weighty, in the ſame Page (42.) nicely delineated, and beautified, with another Quotation at Bottom, very applicable, and entirely new.

The *other*, ſays our Author, has no Faults of this Nature; *him* we ſee *juſt as he is*; and as ſuch, indeed, he is a moſt deſirable Creature for the Place he aims at; he is *Aaron*'s golden *Calf*, and to be placed, by *him*, on high, for the infatuated *Iſraelites* to adore.

I am now arrived, my Lord, at the long-wiſhed-for End of this Pamphlet, and a tedious Journey have I had; very like travelling through a dirty, rough, narrow, perplexed Road. On the whole, you ſee, how *free* and *candid* his *Inquiry* is, into what Kind of Matters the *Inquiry* is, for the moſt Part, made, and how extremely neceſſary for the

Intereſts

Intereſts of his Party it is, that this *Inquiry* ſhould be peruſed, at this Time, by our *Repreſentatives in Parliament, and their ſeveral Electors.* It will not, however, be without its Uſe, tho' contrary to his Intentions; for, as I have before obſerved his Violence makes him blab out the true Sentiments, Characters, and Schemes of his Maſters. I own, he is ſo abominably ſtupid in many Places, that I am not without Apprehenſions of being laughed at for being at the Pains of animadverting on them. For that Reaſon, as your Lordſhip will obſerve, I have paſſed over many Things, that occurred to me, in Silence, and have ſeldom indulged myſelf in cenſuring the mere Author, when the Party, he ſpeaks for, are not concerned.

Gracious Heaven! what a Criſis are we now at! what a Height of Inſolence and Preſumption muſt a Party have arrived at, when Wretches, like this Author, are encouraged to vend Treaſon againſt the public Good! How ſhould every Man of the Community exert himſelf in his particular Sphere, down from the Legiſlator to the Mechanic who votes for a Magiſtrate! The Cauſe is the Cauſe of Honeſty, of Virtue, of Liberty, of Loyalty; our Sovereign is our invariable Friend, our Enemies are his, and he will joy to find us ſteady and reſolute in preſerving the Intereſt he has long loved, and on which the Happineſs of the Nation abſolutely depends.

My laſt Letter from *London* aſſures me, that the Deſign of the Union is determined to be ſet on Foot here next Seſſion; it makes much Noiſe there,

there, it ſeems, and is condemned with Abhorrence by every Perſon but thoſe who expect their private Emoluments from it. His G——, and his Son, are preparing to come over, and, I am told from *Dublin*, that the P—— is ſo elevated at their Approach, as to have diſguſted, and loſt, ſome of his neareſt Friends by his Inſolence within theſe few Months; a good Prognoſtic! ſo will a *forced*, *unnatural*, Intereſt for ever moulder before the *true*, the *natural*, and the *laſting* one; Men cannot be detached from the latter but by baſe Means, and on ſuch a rotten Baſis can no ſubſtantial Structure be raiſed.

The Event, my Lord, in a few Months will verify this, and we ſhall ſee our Adminiſtration ſhake off its preſent diſtorting Biaſs, and revert, like a well-tempered Bow, to its natural Rectitude; while the Schemes of our Enemies ſhall ſink beneath the Weight of that *national Intereſt* which they ſeem to hold in Deriſion.

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I am, my LORD,

Your Lordſhip's moſt obliged,

And obedient humble Servant.

FINIS.

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